



**COVID-19**

# SNOHOMISH COUNTY DAILY BRIEFING



**Tuesday, August 4, 2020**

## **LOCAL PRESS CONFERENCE HELD VIRTUALLY**

Snohomish County leaders provided an update to the county's response to COVID-19 this morning. Links to the transcript and recording are at right.

## **I'VE TAKEN A COVID-19 TEST... NOW WHAT?**

Links to the new social media video on what to do post-testing are at right.

### **Local Press Conference Held Virtually**

Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers and Snohomish Health District's Acting Director of Prevention Services Katie Curtis provided an update to the county's response to COVID-19. Topics included economic recovery efforts, the need to avoid crowding in parks, case counts, and the teams at the Health District that are helping respond to specific sectors like schools and high-risk populations during this pandemic.

The transcript is available at: <https://www.snohd.org/DocumentCenter/View/4499/transcript-august-8-briefing>

The recording is available at: <https://youtu.be/IS96FE1r8O4>

### **I've taken a COVID-19 test... Now what?**

What should you do after you've been tested for COVID-19? Check out the short social media video for reminders about what to do after you get the results, too.

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)



## **SNOHOMISH COUNTY ANNOUNCES AEROSPACE GRANTS**

Snohomish County on Tuesday announced Workforce grants to 11 aerospace companies affected by COVID-19.

## **NEW REPORT FROM DOH HIGHLIGHTS OUTBREAK DATA ACROSS THE STATE**

Department of Health has released a new report highlighting outbreak data across the state.

## **HAVE A STORY TO SHARE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE PANDEMIC? PARTICIPATE IN THE LOCAL CORONACOASTER**

Residents of Brier, Edmonds, Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace, Shoreline, and Woodway are invited to share their

## **Snohomish County announces aerospace Workforce grant awards**

Snohomish County on Tuesday announced grant awards for the Aerospace Employment Recovery & Training Program (AERO-ERTP). This grant program is part of the county's plan to use federal CARES Act resources to support those businesses and their employees impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

There were 24 applicants and 11 were notified that they are eligible for grant awards. Workforce Snohomish will be executing contracts with the companies that qualify before funds will be released. All funds must be expended by November 30, 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on Snohomish County's aerospace industry. The significant decline in business and leisure travel has impacted Boeing and its suppliers and their highly skilled workforce.

"Helping companies in Snohomish County stay globally competitive will be a key part of our economic recovery," said Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers. "The businesses that have been awarded a grant will be able to use the funds to train current employees, recalled furloughed workers, and new hires to maintain a talented and dynamic workforce in commercial aviation and to help diversify into new markets."

"Workforce training to support a company's diversification into new market opportunities is important to the County's economic recovery," said Snohomish County Council Chair Nate Nehring. "This grant program not only allows workers to acquire new skills it provides an opportunity for our aerospace companies to become more resilient by being able to compete for opportunities in the growing defense and space sectors."

For more information, read the [full press release](#).

## **New report from DOH highlights outbreak data across the state**

A [new report](#) from the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) helps illustrate which types of businesses and facilities experience the most COVID-19 outbreak activity. These data are aggregated from all counties that report data to DOH, and the report contains both healthcare and non-healthcare related data.

As of 08/01/2020:

- A total of 411 non-healthcare associated COVID-19 outbreaks have been reported
- 459 long-term care facility (LTCF) COVID-19 outbreaks have been reported in settings including nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and adult family homes.
- A total of 53 non-long-term care healthcare associated COVID-19 outbreaks have been reported in settings including hospitals, outpatient settings (dental clinics, etc.), behavioral health facilities, supported living facilities, home healthcare, dialysis centers, and independent senior living facilities

These outbreak data are not collected by DOH directly. Local health jurisdictions (LHJ) use information from case interviews and other means, such as voluntary reports from businesses and facilities, to identify clusters of cases. The LHJ then conducts an outbreak investigation. If an outbreak is confirmed by an LHJ, they report it to DOH, and DOH records it into the Washington Disease Reporting System (WDRS). The LHJ will continue leading the investigation until it is complete.

For more information, read the [full press release](#).

## **Have a story to share about your experience with the pandemic? Participate in the local CoronaCoaster**

A group of local organizations have come together to launch a new community-based video project, CoronaCoaster, to provide a historical record of the ups and downs of living through a worldwide pandemic.

Residents of Brier, Edmonds, Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace, Shoreline, and Woodway are invited to share their stories.

pandemic stories as part of the CoronaCoaster video project.

### **LOCAL LIBRARIES OFFERING CONTACT-FREE PICK-UP AND RETURNS**

Sno-Isle Libraries and Everett Public Libraries are offering contact-free pick-up and returns of physical library materials. Details at right.

### **SNOHOMISH COUNTY OFFICE OF ENERGY ASSISTANCE RESUMES ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FROM THOSE WITH NO HEAT**

The Snohomish County Energy Assistance Program is again accepting applications from clients who currently have no heat. Details at right.

### **GOV. INSLEE ANNOUNCES UPDATES TO INDOOR FITNESS GUIDANCE**

Gov. Jay Inslee announced updates for Phase 2 and Phase 3 fitness guidance, effective August 10, 2020.

### **GOV. INSLEE, AG FERGUSON ANNOUNCE UPDATE ON CHALLENGES TO GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY POWERS**

To participate please contact: [Michelle.Burke@edmondswaterfrontcenter.org](mailto:Michelle.Burke@edmondswaterfrontcenter.org) or at [425-954-2520](tel:425-954-2520).



### **Local libraries offering contact-free pick up and returns**

Sno-Isle Libraries is offering contact-free pick-up and return of physical library materials. All online services and resources continue to be available. No in-library services are available at this time.

For more information please visit Sno-Isle Libraries' [webpage](#).

Everett Public Library offers curbside service at the main Everett Library, 2702 Hoyt, or the Evergreen Branch Library, 9512 Evergreen Way. All online services and resources continue to be available.

Visit the [Everett Public Libraries website](#) for more information.

### **Snohomish County Office of Energy Assistance resumes accepting applications from those with no heat**

Beginning August 3, 2020, the Snohomish County Energy Assistance Program is accepting applications from clients who currently have no heat. All other clients will need to check back in October for an update.

For new applicants with no heat, please call (425) 388-3880 and leave your full name, address, and phone number. The Energy Assistance team will mail an application after confirming your heat is disconnected.

For those who have received an overdue bill and/or disconnect notice, please contact your heating provider to determine if you qualify for other assistance while you are waiting to apply for county programs.

Current customers who are waiting for a decision on a grant award, please be aware it may take up to 6 weeks to process the application once received. A decision notification will be mailed.

New or current customers who have received an overdue bill and/or disconnect notice, please contact your utility provider to discuss payment options. The Governor has [extended the suspension of utility shutoffs](#) through October 15.

### **Gov. Inslee announces updates to indoor fitness guidance**

Gov. Jay Inslee on Monday announced updates for Phase 2 and Phase 3 [fitness guidance](#) as part of Washington's [Safe Start](#) phased reopening plan. The guidance is effective August 10, 2020.

Updates include:

- Clarification on when facial coverings are required in indoor fitness facilities
- Changes to calculation of occupancy limits for large facilities
- Allowance for fitness and sports training other than group fitness classes

Read the full fitness guidance document [here](#).

Read the attached memo [here](#).

Find a full list of current reopening guidance [here](#).

### **Gov. Inslee, AG Ferguson announce update on challenges to Governor's emergency powers**

Gov. Jay Inslee and Attorney General Bob Ferguson provided an update Monday regarding the legal challenges to the governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy orders.

The Attorney General's Office has successfully defended 17 legal challenges to the governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy orders.

### **JOB SEARCH REQUIREMENTS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT SUSPENDED THROUGH SEPT. 1**

Gov. Jay Inslee announced that job search requirements will remain suspended through Sept. 1.

### **EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT HITS MAJOR MILESTONE FOR APPLICATION PROCESSING, LAUNCHES NEW DASHBOARD**

The Washington Employment Security Department announced it has resolved all claims included in the Operation 100% initiative. ESD also launched a new benefits data dashboard to report information about payments, the claimant populations, status of claims processing and more. Link to the dashboard at right.

The Attorney General's Office has successfully defended all 17 legal challenges. State and federal courts across Washington have rejected the plaintiff's requests for emergency relief in many of the cases, and the plaintiffs in several other cases have given up and abandoned their claims.

While more than 10 motions to temporarily block the orders have been filed in the various cases, not one has been granted. Court rulings have called the arguments by plaintiffs "frivolous," "unpersuasive," and "completely devoid of merit."

"We will continue to defend the Governor's ability to manage this crisis and keep Washingtonians safe," Ferguson said.

"The courts have affirmed the Governor's authority to act during this ongoing emergency as COVID cases continue to rise throughout the state," Inslee said. "I thank Attorney General Ferguson and his team for all their work on this. Our state could be more effective in fighting the virus if all Washingtonians were pulling together with everyone doing their part."

Of the 17 cases filed:

- Seven are completely finished
- Nine are still pending in trial court
- One is on appeal

None have resulted in any court limiting the Governor's orders in any way.

Read the full release [here](#).

### **Job search requirements for unemployment suspended through Sept. 1**

The governor, with support from the Legislature, has announced that job search requirements will remain suspended through Sept. 1. This means the soonest claimants will be required to actively seek work is Sept. 6.

Washingtonians can continue to answer "no" to the job search question on weekly claims until the suspension is lifted.

For more information please read the [ESD Alert](#) and [Tweet](#).

### **Employment Security Department hits major milestone for application processing, launches new dashboard**

The Washington Employment Security Department (ESD) announced on Monday it has resolved all claims included in the Operation 100% initiative. These include all individuals who had applied between March 8 and June 18 who had yet to receive payment and needed ESD to take action to resolve their claims.

"Getting benefits to all eligible Washingtonians has been, and continues to be, our agency's top priority in this crisis," said ESD Commissioner Suzi LeVine. "As we turn the page on Operation 100%, more than 81,500 individuals who had applied by mid-June and not received payment now have resolution on their claims. While clearing this initial backlog represents significant progress, and more than 900,000 individuals have received benefits since the crisis began, we know we still have a lot more work to do and a lot of trust to be regained as we move into the next phase of our response. There are still those who have applied since mid-June or had issues set on their weekly claims and need resolution. We will leverage the progress made and lessons learned in Operation 100% to help those individuals and resolve all claims much faster moving forward."

In addition to resolving the backlog of 81,508 claims by the July 31 deadline, ESD also met the other target for Operation 100%, which was to reduce to four weeks the average time to process claims.

Along with states across the nation, ESD saw an immediate and historic spike in unemployment claims as the COVID-19 crisis hit in March. The scale and speed of the demand was unlike anything that had ever happened before as initial claims filed in Washington increased by over 800% in a single week and, following the launch of the additional benefits under the federal CARES Act, the state saw the single largest week of claims in history – with nearly 1.5 million initial claims filed. For context, the week ending March 7 — before the crisis hit — saw only 6,584 initial claims filed. To meet this demand, the agency has hired thousands more customer service and claims center staff, made numerous enhancements to the technology and adjusted training and workflows to capture greater efficiencies.

In May, Washington was also one of many states to be hit by a sophisticated criminal ring that perpetrated a considerable imposter fraud attack. Criminals used personal information stolen outside of ESD's system to claim benefits in others' name. While ESD put a swift stop to the attack, preventing hundreds of millions in additional fraudulent payments, the added scrutiny and identity verification measures impacted the speed at which the department could work through the backlog of claims from earlier in the crisis.

Commissioner LeVine provided a detailed update to the media on Monday, Aug. 3, on Operation 100% and fraud – including releasing figures of confirmed fraudulent claims and specifics on fraud payments prevented. The video and slideshow can be found in the [newsroom on ESD's website](#).

With the initial backlog now cleared and added fraud measures in place, the agency is turning its focus from crisis to consistency, with a more predictable and consistent customer experience and faster resolution on claims when issues arise. The department launched a [new benefits data dashboard](#) to report information about payments, the claimant population, status of claims processing and more. This dashboard, which will be updated weekly, will allow the public stay up to speed on the status, progress and performance of benefits claims and processing as the pandemic continues.

## Benefits data dashboard

Welcome to the unemployment benefits data dashboard. This dashboard tracks benefits data since the COVID-19 crisis started, including information about payments, the claimant population, status of claims processing and more. This should help you stay up to speed on our status, progress and performance of claims processing as the pandemic continues.

The Operation 100% data will be included in this dashboard until mid-August for those following the progress of this initiative. As a reminder, this was our effort to resolve all unpaid claims that were filed between March 8 and June 18, 2020, and to reduce average processing time to 4 weeks for claims with issues.

<b>\$8.66 Billion</b> <b>Total paid</b> For payments made since March 8, 2020 – July 25, 2020	<b>\$2,705,400,992</b> State unemployment insurance
	<b>\$5,126,269,074</b> Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation
	<b>\$684,260,086</b> Pandemic Unemployment Assistance
	<b>\$136,376,676</b> Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation
	<b>\$4,721,077</b> Extended Benefits

FPUC, PUA, PEUC, and EB are federal unemployment programs made available through the federal CARES Act.

\$8.66 Billion paid (March 8, 2020-July 25, 2020): \$2,705,400,992 UI | \$5,126,269,074 FPUC | \$684,260,086 | PUA \$136,376,676 PEUC | \$4,721,077 EB

## CONFIRMED AND PROBABLE CASES OF COVID-19 IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Data on case counts are available on the Snohomish Health District [website](#) and the Washington State Department of Health [dashboard](#).

## ESSENTIAL LINKS AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

- [Snohomish Health District](#)
- [Snohomish County](#)
- [Snohomish County COVID- 19 Response & Community Resource Hub](#)
- [Washington State](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- Snohomish County COVID-19 Phone Line: **425-388-3944**
- Línea telefónica COVID-19 del condado de Snohomish: **425-388-7120**
- Washington State COVID-19 Hotline: Call **1-800-525-0127** or text **211-211** for help.

## Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19 in Snohomish County (as of August 4, 2020)

Case Count	Last Updated: 1:45 p.m.
Confirmed	5,281 (up 51 cases from 8/03)
Probable	665 (up 10 from 8/03)
Deaths	190

Jurisdiction	Last Updated: 1:45 p.m.
Arlington	244 (147 recovered)
Bothell*	447 (260 recovered)
Brier	30 (23 recovered)
Darrington	<5 (<5 recovered)
Edmonds	507 (370 recovered)
Everett	1,752 (1,143 recovered)
Gold Bar	8 (<5 recovered)
Granite Falls	40 (30 recovered)
Index	0
Lake Stevens	271 (157 recovered)
Lynnwood	957 (684 recovered)
Marysville	507 (340 recovered)
Mill Creek	98 (57 recovered)
Monroe	201 (104 recovered)
Mountlake Terrace	167 (125 recovered)
Mukilteo	99 (75 recovered)
Snohomish	347 (189 recovered)
Stanwood	164 (117 recovered)
Sultan	28 (8 recovered)
Tulalip	42 (26 recovered)
Unknown/Other	<5 (<5 recovered)
Woodinville*	23 (14 recovered)
Woodway	9 (8 recovered)